

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please enter the Replacement Sheet for FIG. 12, attached hereto. An amendment has been made to FIG. 12 as discussed below.

REMARKS

STATUS SUMMARY

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 6-18, and 20-36 presently stand rejected. Claims 5 and 19 are objected to. Claims 1, 3-11, 16-25, 30, 31 and 34 have been amended herein. Claims 37-50 have been added herein.

DRAWINGS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), a Replacement Sheet has been submitted for FIG. 12. In FIG. 12, block 1208, the word "emitter" has been replaced with the word "source." Support for this amendment is found, for example, in the portion of the written description that refers to FIG. 12. Also, block 1210 was amended to read "END" to correct minor typographical error. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendment to FIG. 12 be entered.

SPECIFICATION

Certain paragraphs of the specification have been amended to make minor corrections or clarifications. These amendments are believed to be fully supported by the present application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21, 31, 32, 34, and 35 over the '199 Patent

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21, 31, 32, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,072,199. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the '199 Patent fails to teach each and every element or feature recited in the rejected claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a controller in signal communication with the plurality of active circuits for powering up and down the active circuits for forming one or more desired signal distribution paths from an input signal-carrying input to one or more output signal-carrying outputs.” Support for this amendment is found, for example, in FIG. 10 and the portions of Applicant’s specification referring to FIG. 10. The '199 Patent fails to teach a controller.

Claims 2-3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, and 21 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 31 has been amended to recite “controlling the plurality of voltage followers by powering one or more of the voltage followers up or down to form one or more desired signal distribution paths from an input signal-carrying input to one or more output signal-carrying outputs.” Support for this amendment is found, for example, in FIG. 10 and the portions of Applicant’s specification referring to FIG. 10. The '199 Patent fails to teach such controlling.

Claim 32 depends from claim 31, and therefore is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite “means for controlling the plurality of voltage followers by powering one or more of the voltage followers up or down to form one or more desired signal distribution paths from an input signal-carrying input to one or more output signal-carrying outputs.” Support for this amendment is found, for example, in FIG. 10 and the portions of Applicant’s specification referring to FIG. 10. The ‘199 Patent fails to teach such controlling means.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21, 31, 32, 34, and 35 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the ‘199 Patent, and therefore requests that the rejection to these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 10-16, and 24-36 over the ‘996 Patent

Claims 1, 2, 10-16, and 24-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,586,996. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the ‘996 Patent fails to teach each and every element or feature recited in the rejected claims.

As noted, claim 1 has been amended to recite “a controller in signal communication with the plurality of active circuits for powering up and down the active circuits for forming one or more desired signal distribution paths from an input signal-carrying input to one or more output signal-carrying outputs.” The ‘996 Patent fails to teach such a controller. The ‘996 Patent describes varying the gain of active circuits, but not powering up and down active circuits for forming one or more desired signal distribution paths.

Claims 2, 10-16, and 24-30 depend from claim 1, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons.

As noted, independent claim 31 has been amended to recite “controlling the plurality of voltage followers by powering one or more of the voltage followers up or down to form one or more desired signal distribution paths from an input signal-carrying input to one or more output signal-carrying outputs.” Claim 31 is therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as regards claim 1.

Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 31, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons.

As noted, independent claim 34 has been amended to recite “means for controlling the plurality of voltage followers by powering one or more of the voltage followers up or down to form one or more desired signal distribution paths from an input signal-carrying input to one or more output signal-carrying outputs.” Claim 34 is therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as regards claim 1.

Claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 10-16, and 24-36 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over the ‘996 Patent, and therefore requests that the rejection to these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘199 Patent. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because each of these claims depends directly or indirectly from claim 1. As demonstrated above, claim 1 is

patentable over the '199 Patent. Therefore these claims are also be patentable over the '199 Patent for at least the same reasons as regards claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the '199 Patent, and therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

OTHER CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In addition to the amendments to claims 1, 31 and 34 discussed above, other minor amendments have been made. Specifically, claims 3-11, 16-25 and 30 have been amended to conform to the amendments made to claims 1, 31 or 34, and/or to improve clarity. None of these amendments are believed to have been made in response to a substantive rejection or for any other purpose relating to patentability. The amendments made to the claims are believed to be fully supported by the present application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 37-50 have been added and are believed to be fully supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added.

Claim 37 depends from claim 1 and claim 38 depends indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, claims 37 and 38 are patentable for at least the same reasons as regards claim 1.

Claim 39 depends from independent claim 31, and therefore is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 40 depends from independent claim 34, and therefore is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 41 is directed to “An active splitter for splitting a plurality of received input signals into a plurality of split output signals.” None of the prior art references teaches support for multiple inputs.

Claims 42-50 depend directly or indirectly from claim 41, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests entry and allowance of new claims 37-50.

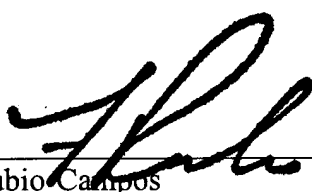
CONCLUSION

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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